

worked for Senator BENNETT's father, also a Senator. He worked with Senator Robert Bennett, very close to the political establishment of the State of Utah, a friend to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, and would have been well suited for the U.S. Senate. Had Kent come to the Senate, we would have had three Senators from Russell, KS, since Senator Dole's hometown is Russell, while I was born in Wichita and moved to Russell at the age of 12. Kent would have fit in this establishment very well. He would have been a credit to the Senate.

On August 30, Steve Mills, who was also Kent's colleague for the debate tournaments, and I went to Salt Lake City to participate in Kent's funeral services. He was a great American. He had a knack for writing, contributed extensively to the newspaper in Washington on columns. He was a brilliant man, an outstanding lawyer, and a really great American.

I have taken a few moments today to eulogize him because his record is worth noting for the permanent record in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, especially since he was a member of the Senate family, even though for only a 3-month period.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following obituary printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KENT SHEARER

Kent Shearer, 1929–2007. Kent Shearer, age 77, died peacefully August 23, 2007, in Portland, Oregon. Kent was born October 5, 1929 in Ellsworth, Kansas to William Shearer and Agnes (Phillips) Shearer and was married to Alice Neff in Russell, Kansas; January 25, 1952. Preceded in death by wife, Alice and daughter Lorraine (Lori). Survived by son Edward (Bo) and his wife Renee Montmorency, grandsons Samuel and Beau of Portland, Oregon and sister Jane Shearer of Kansas City, Kansas. Kent graduated from Russell High School in Russell, Kansas with honors. He participated in the debate, drama, and forensics program and won two State Championships in debate. He attended Kansas University and earned a degree from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He continued with debate on the KU varsity team, winning many individual tournaments across the country, including the National Invitational Tournament and twice being invited to participate in the West Point Nationals. In 1954, Kent received his law degree from Kansas University and entered the Army Judge Advocates Corps where he served until 1957. Kent and Alice made their home in Utah from 1958 until Alice's death in 1997. Although a lawyer by trade, Kent's passion throughout his life was Utah politics and the Republican Party. He was an active organizer of the Salt Lake County and Utah Young Republicans during the 1960s and 1970s and served as the Utah State GOP Chairman from 1971 to 1973. Kent was a key behind-the-scenes member of many political organizations and campaigns (including Alice's political career as a Salt Lake City Council member). He penned a much discussed and anticipated column in The Enterprise Newspaper on a wide range of topics for over 30 years.

After Alice's death in 1997, Kent moved to Portland, Oregon to be close to his son's family. He pursued an intellectual retirement, spending his time reading, writing and providing all the answers to his grandsons' many questions. Kent's accomplishments were many. However, all pale in the light of his sharp mind and quick wit, his basic sense of decency and the many people he touched throughout his life. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral services will be held at St. Marks Cathedral, 231 East 100 South, Salt Lake City on Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 1 p.m. Following the service, a reception in Kent's honor will be held at the Alta Club, 100 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City. Published in the Salt Lake Tribune from 8/26/2007–8/28/2007.

TRIBUTE TO ADA MAE GROETZINGER HAURY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek to pay tribute to an outstanding educator. As the Senate takes up the appropriations bills—it soon will take up the bill on funding for education—it is appropriate to focus on the importance of education in our society.

My brother, my two sisters, and I have been able to share in the American dream because of our educational opportunities. My father had no formal education. My mother only went to the eighth grade, when she had to leave work to help support her family where her father had died in his mid-40s of a heart attack. But because of their love for education and recognition of its importance, their children have benefited from great educational opportunities.

Our health is our No. 1 capital asset. Without good health, none of us can do anything. And our No. 2 capital asset is education. Without education, there are severe limitations. I say this in the context of paying tribute to Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, the Russell High School debate coach.

She came to Russell in the fall of 1945, in her early 20s, having recently graduated from college herself. She brought a level of intensity to high school debating, which level of intensity was unparalleled in my educational experience. We had a class in debate at 9 o'clock in the morning. Then she would sit at 4 o'clock and have another round of debate, again at 5, again at 7, and again at 8 o'clock. And she would judge the debates. In retrospect, it seems surprising that somebody would have done that. Each member of the debating team debated twice in 1 day, once in the class at 9 and once in the other lines.

The analytical process in working through the debate topics—one of which was national health insurance, another of which was lowering the voting age to 18—was great for high school students. Our high school coach, Ms. Groetzinger, emphasized a smooth delivery. If anybody faltered during the course of a 10-minute speech or a 5-minute rebuttal, that individual was likely to be rated fourth. She rated everybody on every day of the debates.

It was not only the first team which excelled, but it was the second team

which also excelled. We went to one tournament at Salina High School, a town about 70 miles east of Russell, and the second team did better in the preliminary rounds than the first team. The second team advanced to the semifinals, and the first team, which I was on, sat and watched the proceedings because they had done better than the first team.

One year everybody on the debating team went through one tournament undefeated. So it was a very remarkable background in analysis, in organization, in extemporaneous speaking, and very good training for the practice of being a trial lawyer, very good training for being a Senator, very good training for the questioning which we do in the various committees where we serve.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KELLY

Mr. SPECTER. When Ada Mae Groetzinger left Russell High in the spring of 1946, Tom Kelly became the debate coach. Tom Kelly had not had experience as a debate coach. He was the drama coach. He directed the school plays "Lost Horizon" and "Nothing But The Truth," and was very adept at that. But having inherited an extraordinary group of high school debaters, Tom Kelly was our coach when we won the State AA championship in the spring of 1947.

With the experience he gained at Russell High School, he then went on to Hutchinson Junior College, where he won national championships and was an outstanding teacher in his own right.

He gave two lectures to us which have carried forth with me to this day. Every Friday, when we would prepare to go to a debate tournament, Mr. Kelly would organize the students and start to tell us about the forthcoming trip. His slogan was "Don't choke up in the clutch." That means: Don't get too nervous to do your job. "Don't choke up in the clutch." We would go to the tournament, characteristically come back having won the tournament, and on Monday he would again address the high school debaters and say: "Don't rest on your laurels." Those were Tom Kelly's words, which have carried through to this day.

I made these comments and was reminded of the outstanding educational experience from those two high school debate coaches as I reflected on the events going to Salt Lake City for Kent Shearer's funeral. This past May, over the Memorial Day recess, Kent Shearer, Steve Mills, Gene Balloun, and I—the four debaters on the high school team—paid a visit to Ada Mae Groetzinger, who is since married and is now Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, in her retirement home in Newton, KS.

It was a good event to have the four of us get together. At that time, Kent was not feeling well. He suffered from emphysema. It was a good occasion for the group to get together with our high

school coach just a few months before Kent passed away.

FOREIGN TRAVEL TO UNITED KINGDOM, FINLAND, RUSSIA, TURKEY, POLAND, AND FRANCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, during the last 2 weeks of August, I had occasion to travel to Europe to discuss with a variety of foreign leaders subjects of mutual concern. The highlight of the trip was visiting the museum in Warsaw on the Jewish uprising, which occurred on August 1, 1944. That was a time when the Allies were making substantial progress, with the invasion of Normandy having occurred on June 6, 1944. The Soviets were coming in from the east, and the uprising was a valiant, heroic effort by the Jews in the Jewish ghetto to upset the Nazi tyranny. Regrettably, it failed.

But for anyone who has any doubt about the Holocaust or about the brutality of the Nazis in putting down the Jewish people, the 6 million Jews who died—and you have preposterous statements coming forth with some regularity, most recently from the President of Iran, doubting the existence of the Holocaust—a visit to the museum in Warsaw on the Jewish uprising will certainly quell any doubts.

The facts are established there, with the documentation, with people speaking, those who survived, to tell the grim tale of the Nazi brutality and the existence of the Holocaust.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of my report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL TO UNITED KINGDOM, FINLAND, RUSSIA, TURKEY, POLAND, AND FRANCE, AUGUST 18-29, 2007

Mr. President, I have sought recognition to report on foreign travel, as is my custom. I made to England, Finland, Russia, Turkey, Poland, and France from August 18 to August 29, 2007. I was joined by my wife Joan, my aide John Myers, Major Benjamin M. Venning, United States Marine Corps, and Commander John Clayton, United States Navy.

UNITED KINGDOM

On August 18, we departed Newark Liberty International Airport, Newark, New Jersey. Our first stop was in London, England, where we landed at Heathrow International Airport after a flight of just over 6 hours. Upon arriving in London, we were greeted by Richard Bell, First Secretary, U.S. Embassy, London.

Mr. Bell briefed me on a number of important issues ongoing in the United Kingdom and with new Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Terrorism is the large problem in the U.K. and is becoming more complex as terrorist threats are now increasingly coming from their own citizens. Further, many Britons have a negative perception of the United States due to the war in Iraq and the continued detainment of individuals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After a brief overnight stay, we traveled to Helsinki, Finland.

FINLAND

Upon arriving in Helsinki on August 19, we were greeted by Ambassador Marilyn Ware

and Greg Thome, Political Section, United States Embassy Finland.

We had lunch with Ambassador Ware, originally of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at which I was briefed on a number of issues. First, we discussed the recent disagreement between Estonia and Russia, in which Estonia moved a statue honoring Russian soldiers who died in World War II from a park to a military cemetery. Russians were not pleased by this action and the Russian government reportedly ignored the harassment of Estonian officials in Russia. Finland played a leading role in gathering European Union support for Estonia regarding this matter. The Finnish effort resulted in a statement from the European Union in support of Estonia's action.

Secondly, we discussed Ambassador Ware's efforts to improve the energy diversity in Finland and surrounding areas. She is working to organize a symposium with regional energy officials to improve energy development in Finland.

We then discussed Finnish efforts to take a greater role in NATO and the United Nations. While Finland is not a member of NATO, it is a preferred partner. Currently, there are 240 troops serving in Lebanon, 105 in Afghanistan, 450 in Kosovo, and 80 in Bosnia. There is a great sense of pride in Finland that they are playing an important role in problem areas around the world.

Following the briefing, I headed with Ambassador Ware to the Parliament Building to meet with Speaker of Parliament Sauli Niinistö. We discussed the prospect of Finland becoming a member of NATO, to which the Prime Minister believed that more time would be needed if such a thing were to happen. As Finland shares a large border with Russia, there is great hesitation to taking an action which Russia opposes. However, there is a strong desire for Finland to continue as a preferred partner in NATO and to increase their role in NATO Rapid Forces.

Speaker Niinistö also noted concern among some Finnish people about the war in Iraq. He suggested that it would have been wiser to have the United Nations more involved after Saddam Hussein was removed from power. I noted that I do not believe that the United States would have received that support from the United Nations. Though if there had been better intelligence on weapons of mass destruction, we might not have gone into Iraq.

That evening, I had dinner with Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen at his home on the Baltic Sea. We were joined by Ambassador Ware, State Secretary Risto Volanen and European Union Affairs Advisor Riina Nevamäki. We discussed a number of important topics. The Prime Minister offered hope that the United States could remove troops from Iraq, though he would not suggest a timetable for doing so. He also offered support for Turkey entering the European Union, stating that doing so would bind the Turkish people to Democratic values. However, Turkey faces obstacles to becoming part of the European Union; specifically they must address concerns regarding human rights and freedom of the press. I was interested to learn that Prime Minister Vanhanen also serves on his city council in his home city of Nurmijärvi.

We also discussed John Morton, a great Pennsylvanian of Finnish descent. A member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and Delegate to the Continental Congress, John Morton cast the deciding vote in favor of the United States Declaration of Independence. This important figure in American history provides an excellent example of the importance of Finns in America.

On Monday, August 20, we attended a breakfast hosted by U.S. Ambassador Ware

at her residence. The breakfast was attended by a distinguished group of individuals including Minister of Justice Tuija Brax, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Pauline Koskelo, Kimmo Sasi, Chairman of the Parliament's Constitutional Law Committee, and Pertti Salolainen, Chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. I was interested to learn that the judicial system in Finland is a non-political system and there are far less ideological conflicts than in the United States. We also discussed the need for the United States to be more engaged in the Middle East and conduct bilateral discussions with Iran.

RUSSIA

From Helsinki, we traveled to St. Petersburg Russia, where Consul General Mary Kruger and Consular Officer Doug O'Neill met us.

That afternoon, I met with a group of U.S. business executives including American Chamber of Commerce—Russia President Andrew Somers, American Chamber of Commerce—St. Petersburg Chapter Executive Director Maria Chernobrovkina, American Chamber of Commerce—Russia Vice President Tatiana Ragnzina, American Chamber of Commerce—Russia Communications Director Guy Archer, U.S. Department of Commerce Principal Communications Officer Keith Silver, General Director International Paper—St. Petersburg Larry Booker, Citibank—St. Petersburg Commercial Director Ruslan Belyaev, EMC Software Director Igor Agamirzian, and Boyden Managing Partner Julia Nikitina. U.S. companies play an important role in the economy of Russia employing 200,000 Russians. I questioned the group about the level of government corruption and how it affects their companies. They responded that corruption has been drastically reduced; Russia is encouraging foreign investment; and companies that are investing are experiencing considerable growth.

Following that meeting, I met with the representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Those in attendance were Boris Pustyntsev, Citizens Watch, Vladimir Shnitke, Memorial, and Ella Polyakova, Soldiers' mothers. Ms. Polyakova explained the abuse that new members of the military are facing, specifically the injuries to Roman Rudakov, who as the result of beatings had to have most of his intestines removed and has been systematically mistreated by military and government.

They also noted their concern with a new Russian law that allows the government to place requirements for reporting and registration of NGOs. The requirements being placed on these organizations are extensive and burdensome. Mr. Pustyntsev explained that he was required to provide correspondence from the last 14 years. There is great concern that this will reduce the number of NGOs and harm human rights progress that Russia has made.

On Tuesday, August 21, we were fortunate to examine the country's rich cultural heritage. We toured the Petershof Palace, the summer home of Peter the Great. We then visited the Hermitage Museum, one of the best museums for Russian and European art in the world. The museum is located in the former winter home of the Czars.

On August 22, we departed St. Petersburg for Moscow, where we were greeted by James Melville, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim, Kathleen Doherty, Deputy Minister Counselor, and U.S. Department of Justice Resident Legal Advisor Thomas Firestone. I was briefed on issues of concern by them. Habeas corpus is gaining more prevalence in Russia with more cases being appealed and more defendants being released on those appeals.